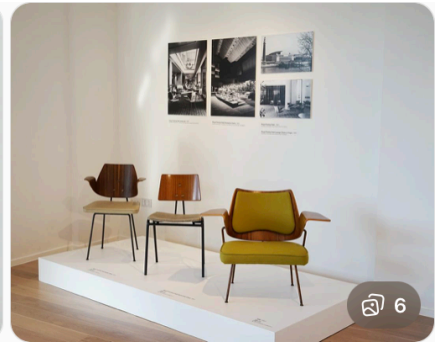


ROBIN DAY

<https://www.robinandluciennedayfoundation.org/>

AI GENERATED ARCHIVE (Unedited)

1915–2010



Overview

Robin Day is regarded as one of the most influential British furniture designers of the twentieth century. Trained at the Royal College of Art, he pioneered democratic, affordable, mass-produced furniture while maintaining exceptionally high standards of design and engineering. His career spanned more than seventy years and included furniture, interiors, exhibitions, seating systems and industrial design. He is best known for the revolutionary **Polypropylene Chair** (1963), one of the world's most successful chair designs.

Career Timeline

1915

- Born in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

1934–1938

- Studied Furniture and Interior Design at the Royal College of Art.

1948

- Won the storage section of the International Competition for Low-Cost Furniture Design organised by Museum of Modern Art.

1948–1983

- Principal designer for Hille.

1951

- Designed furniture and seating for the Royal Festival Hall as part of the Festival of Britain.

1962–1987

- Design consultant for John Lewis Partnership, developing furniture, interiors and store design.

1963

- Introduced the Polypropylene Chair.

1969 onwards

- Designed seating systems for the Barbican Centre.

1999–2003

- Produced new furniture for Twentytwentyone and SCP including the Sussex Bench.

2010

- Died aged 95.

Design Characteristics

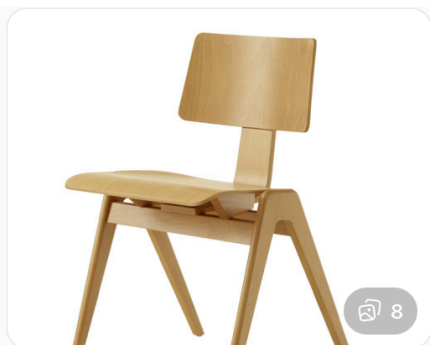
Robin Day's work is recognised for:

- Functional modernism
- Honest use of materials
- Elegant engineering
- Stackable, economical furniture
- Industrial production without compromising aesthetics
- Furniture designed for public use as well as the home

His work employed:

- Bent plywood
- Tubular steel
- Die-cast aluminium
- Injection-moulded polypropylene
- Laminated timber

Landmark Furniture Designs



Among his most significant designs are:

- Polypropylene Chair (1963)
- Hillestak Chair
- Daystak Chair

- Royal Festival Hall Chair
- Royal Festival Hall Tables
- Toro Seating
- Woodro Seating
- Sussex Bench
- Series E School Furniture
- Polo Chair
- Reclining Chair (1950)

Important Interior Design Projects

Robin Day also enjoyed an important career as an interior designer, particularly for public buildings.

Major commissions included:

- Royal Festival Hall
- Barbican Centre
- Churchill College, Cambridge
- John Lewis department stores
- Waitrose stores
- London Underground seating
- NHS waiting-room furniture
- Exhibition design for ICI and EKCO

Exhibitions

1950

Prize Designs for Modern Furniture

Museum of Modern Art

1991

The New Look: Design in the Fifties

Manchester City Art Gallery

2001

Robin and Lucienne Day: Pioneers of Contemporary Design

Barbican Centre

2011

Robin and Lucienne Day: Design and the Modern Interior

Pallant House Gallery

2012

British Design 1948–2012

Victoria and Albert Museum

2015

Robin Day Works in Wood

Victoria and Albert Museum (Centenary Exhibition)

Museum Collections

Robin Day's furniture is held by numerous major museums, including:

- Victoria and Albert Museum
- Design Museum
- Museum of Modern Art
- Museum of the Home
- Philadelphia Museum of Art

Legacy

Robin Day transformed British furniture design by proving that beautifully designed furniture could be affordable, durable and suitable for mass production. His Polypropylene Chair remains one of the defining objects of twentieth-century industrial design, while his public interiors—particularly at the Royal Festival Hall and Barbican—continue to demonstrate his belief that good design should improve everyday life. Together with his wife, the textile designer Lucienne Day, he helped define the visual language of post-war British modernism.